

Article 55 # Non-Binding Resolution – Limiting Negative Impacts of Unaffordable Growth

Should the Planning Board Plan?
Should the Planning Board be more proactive?

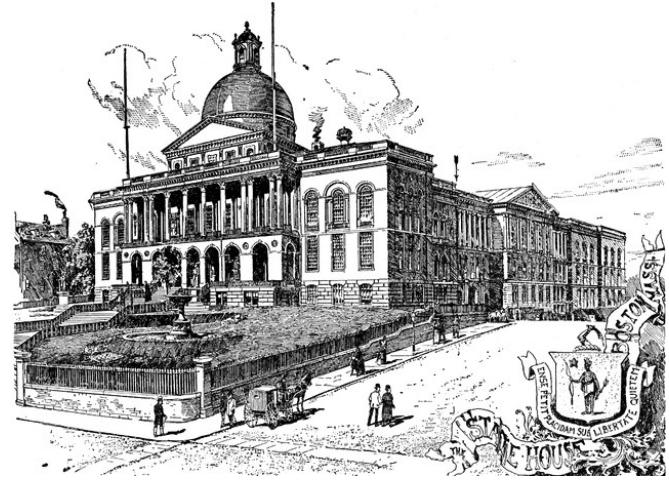
The Planning Board could be using local law to:

- reduce the amount of land destroyed
- minimize the burden on town infrastructure
- ensure environmental justice/affordability
- reduce the carbon impact of new building
- protect
 - **water**
 - **bio-diversity**
 - **historical/archaeological relics**
 - **Built and natural environment**



Mass General Laws (MGL) call
for the Planning Board to:

*“make careful studies and when necessary
prepare plans of the resources, possibilities and
needs of the city or town”*



The Acton Master Plan calls for Acton to:

“...maximize open space and minimize developed land,...”



The Acton Climate Emergency Declaration calls for Acton to:

“...protect trees, forests, and other open spaces because of their ability to draw carbon out of the atmosphere and store it...”



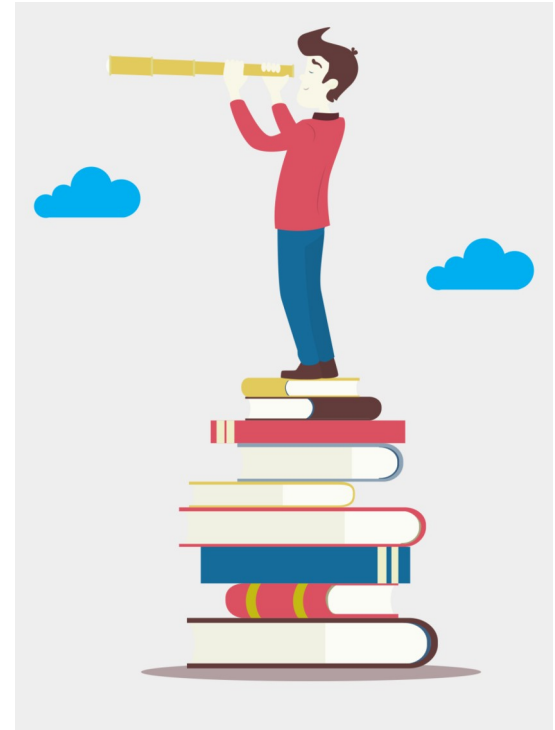
Responsibilities of Planning Boards around the state:

Study the resources and needs of the Town,
particularly public welfare/safety related to land use

Follow the Master Plan and make recommendations for
controlling development

Oversee subdivisions and special permits to
ensure they meet the goals in the Master Plan.

Write zoning bylaws and propose changes to the Town's
Zoning Bylaw



What tools does a Planning Board have to limit negatives impacts of development?

- Zoning bylaw
- Acton Town Bylaw
- Subdivision Rules and Regulations
- Studies and recommendations
- Policies/procedures
- Fees



Please vote YES!

To ask the Planning Board to
be more proactive!



Warrant Article: *“The Acton Planning Board should be more proactive in limiting the negative impacts of unaffordable growth by presenting proposed zoning and/or bylaw changes for subsequent Town Meeting to vote on, starting with the 2023 Town Meeting.”*

Please



VOTE
YES

For a more proactive Planning Board

Why an Elected Planning Board?



The answers we've gotten from officials so far on too many issues

